

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1



25X1

*CONTENTS*



25X1

West Germans Complete Plans for Guillaume  
Trial. . . . . 6

June 11, 1975

-i-



25X1

Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1

West Germans Complete Plans for Guillaume  
Trial

Plans are nearing completion for the trial of former Brandt aide Guenther Guillaume, whose arrest last spring on espionage charges led to then Chancellor Brandt's dramatic decision to step down as head of the Bonn government. West German authorities expect the trial to disclose no new information embarrassing to Brandt, although there may be some political fallout when prominent political personalities appear as witnesses.

The date of the trial--originally set for June 24--may have to be postponed because of the illness of one of the key members of the prosecution team, but West German authorities are confident that they have a strong enough case to convict Guillaume. Prosecution legal experts have determined that the material passed by Guillaume to the East Germans falls within the category of high treason as defined by the West German constitution. Guillaume is expected to receive the maximum sentence of from five years to life imprisonment.

It is not clear, however, just how strong a case the West German authorities have against Guillaume's wife, who also faces espionage charges.

25X1

25X1

June 11, 1975

25X1

Neither government nor opposition leaders expect the trial to provide any political bombshells, although both the anti-government press and the conservative opposition parties are almost certain to use the occasion of the trial to rehash criticism of Brandt and of the Social Democratic-led government in general. Conservative party leaders in Bonn, however, do not expect to derive much additional political capital out of the Guillaume affair. Brandt's resignation last May and, more recently, the announced early retirement in late August 1975 of Guenther Nollau, the much-criticized chief of the West German counter-intelligence service, should further reduce the political impact of the Guillaume affair.

25X1

June 11, 1975

-7-

25X1

25X1

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